Serial No.: 09/676,319   Attorney's Docket No.:10559/329001/P9832

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 -41 (Cancelled)

42. (New) A method comprising:

storing authentication information for a plurality of users;

at an authentication service, receiving digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

verifying the digital credential information using the authentication information;

providing verification information associated with the first user to the relying party; and

providing information to the first user, the information indicative of receiving the digital credential information associated with the first user from the relying party.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

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44. (New)   The method of claim 42, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and further comprising:

prior to providing the verification information to the relying party, verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

45.   (New)   The method of claim 42, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and further comprising:

verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

46.   (New)   The method of claim 42, further comprising:

storing access information associated with the relying party, the access information including information indicative of the providing the verification information associated with the first user; and

providing the access information to the relying party.

47.   (New)   The method of claim 42, wherein the authentication information comprises professional license status

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information, and wherein providing verification information to the relying party comprises providing verification information indicative of the professional license status to the relying party.

48. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein providing verification information to the relying party comprises providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user.

49. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising at least one of the relying party and the authentication service issuing a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

50. (New) An article comprising a machine-readable medium embodying information indicative of instructions that when performed by one or more machines result in operations comprising:

storing authentication information for a plurality of users;

at an authentication service, receiving digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

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verifying the digital credential information using the authentication information;

providing verification information associated with the first user to the relying party; and

providing information to the first user, the information indicative of receiving the digital credential information associated with the first user from the relying party.

51. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

52. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and further comprising:

prior to providing the verification information to the relying party, verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

53. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and further comprising:

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verifying the registration information with the

registration authority.

54. (New) The article of claim 50, further comprising:

storing access information associated with the relying

party, the access information including information indicative

of the providing the verification information associated with

the first user; and

providing the access information to the relying party.

55. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein the

authentication information comprises professional license status

information, and wherein providing verification information to

the relying party comprises providing verification information

indicative of the professional license status to the relying

party.

56. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein providing

verification information to the relying party comprises

providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate

the digital credential information associated with the first

user.

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57.   (New)   The article of claim 50, further comprising at least one of the relying party and the authentication service issuing a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

58.   (New)   A system comprising:

storage configured to store authentication information for a plurality of users; and

an authentication server configured to:

receive digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

verify the digital credential information using the authentication information;

provide verification information associated with the first user to the relying party; and

provide information to the first user, the information indicative of receiving the digital credential information associated with the first user from the relying party.

59.   (New)   The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is configured to provide information to the first user at least by providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

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60. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and wherein the authentication server is further configured to:

verify the registration information with the registration authority prior to providing the verification information to the relying party.

61. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and wherein the authentication server is further configured to verify the registration information with the registration authority.

62. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is further configured to:

store access information associated with the relying party, the access information including information indicative of the providing the verification information associated with the first user; and

provide the access information to the relying party.

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63. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication information comprises professional license status information, and wherein providing verification information to the relying party comprises providing verification information indicative of the professional license status to the relying party.

64. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is configured to provide verification information to the relying party at least by providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user.

65. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is further configured to issue a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

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